

Fourth Annual Report

**ALBERTA
LIBRARY BOARD
1981/82**

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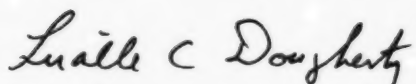
ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

The Honourable Mary J. LeMessurier
#402 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Madame Minister:

In accordance with The Libraries Act, I have the honour to present to you the Fourth Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board for the year ending March 31, 1982.

Respectfully submitted,



Lucille Dougherty
Chairperson

LD/bb
cc: J.S. O'Neill

16214 - 114 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5M 2Z5

BOARD MEMBERS

Elaine Blakey, Red Deer • Merron Chorny, Calgary • Lucille Dougherty, High River • Dr. Christopher Gordon-Craig, Edmonton • Ron Hodges, Edmonton •
Jean Lewis, High Prairie • William Schieman, Medicine Hat •



Fourth Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board for the year ending March 31, 1982.

The past year has been a very busy and productive one for the Alberta Library Board and I thank the library community of Alberta for their co-operation and assistance in making it a rewarding one.

Board Membership

Early in the year, the Board welcomed two new members to its ranks. The first, Jean Lewis, from High Prairie has served on the Alberta Library Trustees Association Executive and is currently a member of the municipal library board in that town and the Peace Library System Steering Committee. She has also been active in local politics. The second, Elaine Blakey, is a teacher-librarian in Red Deer and was actively involved in the Yellowhead Regional Library when she lived in Mayerthorpe. At the same time, Gaye Ross, Vice Chairman and Eve Whitmey, members since 1978 retired from the Board, and are pursuing careers in municipal politics. Libraries of Alberta owe a debt of gratitude to their continuing commitment to library development. Lucille Dougherty was elected Chairman and Elaine Blakey Vice Chairman.

Co-operative Library Systems

The development of co-operative library systems continued to be a major priority of the Board. After extensive consultation with the library community on the "Working Paper on the Development of Co-operative Library Systems", the Board prepared a brief to the Minister of Culture proposing general guidelines and recommending increased financial support. This work was co-ordinated by the Board's Library Development Committee. The proposals for development included the following: that the formation of regional co-operative library systems be based on local initiatives within a program of government encouragement and support for planning, establishment and operation; that government leadership and support for the provincial plan be balanced with local initiative, control and decision making in regional jurisdictions; that regional flexibility rather than uniformity be recognized - this means that the local needs, situation and identified potential would be factors in the development of each region. The areas for regional co-operative systems in the province were proposed in relation to the three existing systems and the additional areas where development projects are currently in operation. After formally submitting the brief to the Minister, the Board discussed it with her in the last days of the fiscal year. We are currently awaiting her response.

There are three operating library systems in Alberta: Marigold, Parkland and Yellowhead. 1981 was the establishment year for the Marigold Library System, serving south-central Alberta. In this year the management, professional and support staff were hired, the headquarters building acquired and renovated in Strathmore and initial services were begun. Early in 1982, the Marigold Board made application and received special funds to support its growth in these early years. The Alberta Library Board has followed Marigold's development with keen interest and wishes it every success in the future.

In support of systems growth and development, the Library Services Branch staff conducted a Technical Services Study for the Yellowhead Regional Library at the request of the System administration. The recommendations were well received by the board and staff and most have been acted upon.



Entrance to Marigold Library System Headquarters in Strathmore.

Elsewhere in the province, development projects are resulting in movements towards system establishment. In the southwest, the Oldman Library Project commissioned the Lethbridge Interface Study which examined the options for the involvement of the Lethbridge Public Library in the proposed Oldman System. At year's end library boards representing more than 62% of the area's population had committed themselves to the system which is expected to be established early in 1983.

The Northern Lights Project, in the T.D. of Bonnyville, which aims at developing resource sharing and ultimately encouraging neighbouring jurisdictions to participate, received its first special operating grant and hired a professional librarian as Co-ordinator.

In the Peace Country, a steering committee continued exploring the possibilities for a co-operative library system there. The committee has concentrated on visiting libraries in the area to explain their work, started a newsletter and developed a proposal to the Library Services Branch for funding of a full-time project office and staff.

A new steering committee in the Southeast area of the province also held three organizational meetings.



Alberta Library Board members Gaye Ross (centre) and Lucille Dougherty (right) were members of the Marigold Steering Committee along with Edith Helton (left) of Three Hills.

In addition, much development continued to take place on the local level. Thirteen new municipal library boards were established including one each in a county and municipal district; an additional five libraries changed their status to municipal from community library and the Marigold System expanded its ranks to include the County of Wheatland.

In light of the range of library development in the province the Board is planning a Library Seminar in the new year to review past objectives and growth and to explore future directions. The intention is to draw on the experience and insight of persons from various areas of library service and from different constituencies that are part of the service.

Legislation

The Board's ad hoc committee on legislation was very active this year. Committee members were: Chairman, Ron Hodges, Heather-Belle Dowling representing the Library Association of Alberta, Howard Platt representing the Alberta Library Trustees Association and Joe Forsyth from the Library Services Branch. The committee studied the library legislation of other provinces and states in developing its principles of legislation. A special meeting was held with Professor Lois Bewley of the Faculty of Library Science, University of British Columbia in regard to her recent study of public library legislation in Saskatchewan.

One hundred topics and legislative principles were drafted and circulated to the library community for comment and reaction. Some of the material for the discussion paper was gathered at a workshop at the 1981 LAA/ALTA Annual Conference in Jasper. In addition, there were seminars held in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Red Deer, Grande Prairie, and Bonnyville. Each seminar followed a similar format consisting of discussion of the 100 topics and legislative principles. The committee also received eight written submissions.

The ad hoc committee will make its final report to the Alberta Library Board in April 1982. The committee is recommending that the legislative principles and recommendations for change be delivered through the Minister of Culture to Legislative Counsel for drafting in appropriate legal format and terminology. As an underlying philosophy, the committee, with the support of the Board recommends that the new Libraries Act should:

"Give each resident of Alberta access to an agency which has primary responsibility to identify, select, organize, retrieve, disseminate and make accessible the record of human thought, that this agency be the public library and that to this end the library service will be tax supported."

It is anticipated that revised legislation will go forward to the Legislative Assembly within the next eighteen months.

Resource Sharing

In November, 1981 the Board convened an assembly of the Alberta library community to discuss the Alberta Library Network Research Project Report prepared by Schick Information Systems Ltd. at the request of Alberta Culture, Alberta Advanced Education and Manpower, and Alberta Education. The report proposed a series of Network priorities based upon an assessment of input received from library administration, key people in government and briefs received. It then postulated three different configurations of Network components with cost data. The priorities identified were: a union catalogue; a fast document delivery system; provision of full cataloguing data and a Network newsletter. The three recommended model configurations were: a resident provincial bibliographic utility, a non-resident bibliographic utility and a distributed network. It was the almost unanimous view of those assembled that the report had not provided a full exposition of the principles of a network nor a full range of realistic options. Finally, the assembly reached a consensus in support of a modified distributed model also referred to as a network of networks. The Assembly then appointed a small ad hoc committee of those present to meet and formulate a series of principles involved in network development and to recommend a course of action moving the Network concept ahead during the next year. We are awaiting their report and the convening of the second assembly.

Resource sharing agreements were signed between the Library Services Branch and the ten major public libraries which serve as resource libraries. Under these agreements the Branch makes grants to cover the cost of staff to check interlibrary loan lists and answer Zenith questions, for photocopies and for wear and tear on materials as well as the cost of toll charges. Thirteen thousand one hundred thirty five requests were handled in 1981, an increase of 15% over the previous year.



Library Services Branch Interlibrary Loan Centre.

Library Funding

Provincial grants to institutions and individuals totaled more than \$7,960,000 in 1981/82. Indexed operating grants to public libraries increased by 11.3%, and new regulations for matching contributions from Improvement Districts and Special Areas were implemented. Arrangements were made for libraries to receive 50% of their previous year's grant in the first month of the 1982/83 fiscal year with no requirement for documentation at that time. This will permit more effective operation, planning and control at the local level. The Board will continue to review and evaluate the level of financial support to libraries lest they wither through inadequate funding.

Facilities

On October 7, 1982 the new Alberta Culture Library Services building in west Edmonton was officially opened by the Honourable Mary J. LeMessurier, Minister of Culture. The 16,000 square foot building houses the total administrative, developmental and bibliographic services of the Branch including Multilingual Biblioservice and Alberta Library Services to the Handicapped. This expansion at the provincial level was accompanied by equally significant library facility growth in many communities. During the year, 52 public libraries completed new buildings or renovations. An additional eighteen were in the advanced construction or planning stages and twenty more libraries began preliminary planning.



Honourable Mary LeMessurier opening the Library Services Branch with Alberta Library Board member Dr. Christopher Gordon-Craig (right) and Branch Director Joe Forsyth (left).

Services to the Handicapped

A Board committee consisting of Dr. Christopher Gordon-Craig, members of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and users of both Alberta Library Services to the Handicapped and C.N.I.B. established an evaluative criteria for monitoring library service to the handicapped in Alberta. They also made a recommendation that a study be commissioned to evaluate the effectiveness of the services for all handicapped Albertans. The study contract will be awarded in the new fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the demands on ALSH services continued to grow and in 1981 talking books were supplied to 109 or 42% of Alberta's public libraries. The total number of patrons registered was 2005, an increase of 30% over the previous year. Total circulation in 1981 was 31,442 an increase of 84% over 1980.

Multilingual Bibloservice

The provincial Multilingual Bibloservice is another important way of sharing specialized resources. During 1981, 10,210 volumes in 27 languages were circulated to 139 libraries or 54% of Alberta's public libraries. Three thousand two hundred fifty four volumes were purchased for a total of 16,665 volumes in the permanent collection. In addition, 2,275 volumes were received from the National Library, increasing that collection to 11,675. Of the 28,340 total, 18,601 were available for circulation and 3,882 new records were added to the automated UTLAS cataloguing data base, bringing the total to 6,926.



Alberta Library Board Chairman Lucille Dougherty speaking at an Oldman Library Project Conference.

Scholarships and Awards

The Scholarship and Bursary Committees interviewed candidates and awarded both a \$4,000 scholarship and a \$4,000 research fellowship to Albertans. This year for the first time the fellowship went to a practicing librarian in a public library. Stephen Sloan of the Fort McMurray Public Library will be studying the possible uses of micro computers in public libraries. The Alberta Library Bursary was awarded to Jane Parkinson of Spruce Grove, who is using it to assist her attendance in the first year Library Science program at the University of Alberta.

Liaison with Other Groups

The Board held its regular monthly meetings and in addition held a formal meeting with the members of the Edmonton and Calgary boards and a joint gathering of the Red Deer and Parkland boards. Board members also attended regular meetings with the boards of the Medicine Hat, Red Deer and Edmonton Public Libraries and the Marigold Library System as a means of increasing their knowledge of these operations. Meetings were also held with the Peace, Oldman and Northern Lights steering committees to gain first-hand information about the problems and progress of these groups.

This past year the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Alberta Library Board began regular meetings with the presidents and vice-presidents of the Library Association of Alberta and the Alberta Library Trustees Association to improve understanding and promote co-operation between the three bodies. It is the Board's hope that this will continue in the next year.

Public Relations

During the past year Vice Chairman, Elaine Blakey, chaired an ad hoc public relations committee which included members from LAA and ALTA as well as the Library Services Branch. The committee is exploring the possibilities for rationalizing the variety of library publications in the province and is considering the development of a province-wide publicity and public relations campaign using financial resources from the renewed Lotteries Trust Fund if they are available.

Conferences and Gatherings

Representatives of the Board attended the following conferences:

- The Canadian Library Association Conference (Hamilton)
- The American Library Association Conference (San Francisco)
- The Pacific Northwest Library Association (Portland)
- The Library Association of Alberta Conference (Jasper)

Other gatherings included representation at the opening of the Camrose Public Library as well as the High Prairie opening. Jean Lewis also conducted a tour of representative libraries in the Peace area.



Honourable Mary LeMessurier opening the High Prairie Public Library, the Honourable Larry Shaben (back - left) and Alberta Library Board member Jean Lewis.

In Conclusion

The Alberta Library Board has now completed its fourth year of activity. It is an advisory committee of the Minister of Culture without whose support and encouragement it could not survive. The Board is very appreciative of the continuing support and confidence it receives from the Minister of Culture, the Honourable Mary J. LeMessurier, as well as the invaluable assistance from the Director of Library Services Branch, Mr. Joe Forsyth, and his staff.

The stated purpose of the Board according to the Libraries Act is "the promotion of library services". To do this fully the Board must function in a co-ordinating role to facilitate communication and to help groups and individuals in channeling their energies toward a common goal - that of progressive, effective library development in the service of users and potential users. The recent study of the Canadian Library Association, "Project: Progress", points out that we are living in an age of change and that we, as librarians and trustees, must learn to adjust to a more demanding population, the impact of computer technology, slower economic growth, and more prudent government expenditures. Public library survival will depend on how effectively libraries are integrated into the larger world. With the continued support of the library community and the Provincial Government, the Alberta Library Board will endeavour to assist libraries to meet the challenges we face.

Number/ Numéro

2

1982/1983





Top: Bill Schieman, Merron Chorny, Jean Lewis, Christopher Gordon-Craig

Bottom: Elaine Blakey, Honourable Mary LeMessurier, Ron Hodges, Daphne Betlamini

ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

The Honourable Mary J. LeMessurier
131 Legislature Building
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Madam Minister:

In accordance with The Libraries Act, I have the honour to present to you the Fifth Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board for the year ending March 31, 1983.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Hodges

Ron Hodges
Chairperson

16214 - 114 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta,
Canada T5M 2Z5

Fifth Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board for the year ending March 31, 1983.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the board changed, with Mrs. Daphne Betlamini, from Winfield, an experienced member of the Yellowhead Regional Library Board, replacing Mrs. Lucille Dougherty. The terms of Mr. William Schieman, Dr. Merron Chorny and Dr. C. Gordon-Craig were renewed. Mr. Ron Hodges was elected Chairman succeeding Mrs. Dougherty, and Mrs. Elaine Blakey continued as Vice Chairman.

CO-OPERATIVE LIBRARY SYSTEMS

The Board has followed the progress of co-operative library systems with keen interest throughout the year by being in attendance at meetings and receiving the system and project newsletters.

There are three operating library systems in Alberta: Marigold, Parkland and Yellowhead. Early in the year, Board members joined a large festive gathering of the library community in helping Marigold open its renovated headquarters building in Strathmore.

After extensive consultation with the library community on the "Working Paper on the Development of Co-operative Library Systems," the Board prepared a brief to the Minister of Culture proposing general guidelines and recommending increased financial support. In October of 1982 the Minister announced the following guidelines dealing with the development of systems:

- Library systems should be of the federated type where participants in a system would define, through an agreement or contract, the respective responsibilities of the individual member library boards and the board of the library system (a federated type of system allows greater autonomy for local boards).
- Library system boards should generally be composed of one representative from each participating jurisdiction.
- The creation of new library systems should follow a grass-roots development model.
- The establishment and expansion of library systems should be based on potential viability and the willingness of the original participants to expand the area served to include the total population.

The Minister also invited the library community to respond to the Board's proposal for eight regional system areas and this information is currently being reviewed and collated. Finally the Minister indicated that she would be working towards the development of a program of financial support which would include capital assistance and assistance based on geographic area when the economic climate improves.

In order to assist library systems establishment, Alberta Culture Library Services Branch issued the publication *Library Systems in Alberta: Guidelines for Development*. The purpose of the "Guidelines" is to explain in detail how a system may be developed and established and the various roles that library boards, librarians, steering committees, municipal authorities and the provincial government play in the process.

Elsewhere in the province, four development projects continued to study and work towards the possibility of systems establishment.

The Northern Lights Project, in the M.D. of Bonnyville, has been designed to demonstrate the benefits of co-operation in the northeast area. During the past year the project matured to provide consultative services, workshops and training sessions and a newsletter to member libraries. Many events were open to all libraries in the area.

In the Peace, the steering committee was disappointed that, due to difficult economic times, a development grant was not forthcoming. However, travel and consultative support were increased considerably to the group.



Elaine Blakey talks to Paul Galibois at Marigold opening.

The Southeast steering committee, assisted by a grant from the Library Association of Alberta/ Alberta Library Trustees Association trust fund continued to meet to investigate the feasibility of a library system there. A new executive was elected to plan for the larger group and a new name Shortgrass was chosen.

Unfortunately, the Oldman Library Project was not able to reach its goal of a commitment of 65 per cent of the population by their target date of March 31, 1983. Although the project grant ended at that time, the steering committee/interim board has voted to continue its work with travel and consultative support from the Library Services Branch.

The Board commissioned a discussion paper entitled *The Cost Implications of the Expansion of the Parkland and Yellowhead Regional Libraries* and this was circulated to the major boards in the affected areas. A meeting will be convened by the Alberta Library Board in June, 1983, with representatives of the Yellowhead, Parkland and Red Deer Boards for the purpose of discussing the issues in the paper and hopefully resolving them.

Throughout the province, development continued to take place at the local level. Four new municipal boards were established; three changed status from community to municipal and the Board designated two new community libraries. Twenty-eight libraries completed new or renovated facilities and Board members attended 11 official openings.



Peace River, Stony Plain and Redcliff all opened new facilities.



LIBRARY FUNDING

Provincial grants to institutions and individuals totalled more than \$9,300,000 in 1982/83. The Board continues to review and evaluate the level of financial support available to libraries and library systems, especially in these times of economic hardship.

RESOURCE SHARING

Members of the Board attended three meetings of the Alberta Library Network Assembly. The purpose of these meetings was to establish some principles and considerations for implementing an Alberta Library Network. The meetings, which were attended by participants from academic, school, public, government, and special libraries, have produced a working document called "Together" which contains eight principles for library networking in Alberta and has been adopted by the Assembly. At the meeting on March 29, 1983 in Calgary, the Alberta Library Network Assembly was renewed for a period of three years, until June 30, 1986. The Alberta Library Board is active in the Assembly and a representative will be on the newly formed Network Advisory Group. The function of the Network Advisory Group is to seek and encourage the creation of mechanisms for interlibrary co-operation, co-ordination and sharing within Alberta or of benefit to Alberta libraries.

Resource sharing among Alberta's libraries continued to grow. Inter-library loan requests in 1982 totalled 17,860, a 36 per cent increase over the previous year. Alberta libraries filled 74 per cent of the requests made.

SERVICES TO THE HANDICAPPED

The Levy-Coughlin Partnership completed the study: "Library Services to the Handicapped in the Province of Alberta: A Comparison of Present Service and Future Needs." The report indicates that handicapped Albertans need to be made aware of the services available to them.

The evaluation of Alberta Library Service to the Handicapped and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind library services done by Nichols Applied Management on the request of the Board was also completed. It confirms the need for increased publicity for the service.

Service demands continued to increase. In 1982, talking books were supplied to 124 libraries, a 13 per cent increase over 1981. Two thousand, four hundred and four Albertans used talking books, an increase of 20 per cent. Total circulation increased six per cent to 33,372.

MULTILINGUAL BIBLIOSERVICE

The use of books in languages other than English increased spectacularly. Seventeen thousand, eight hundred and thirty four volumes in 29 languages were circulated, an increase of 75 per cent. 1,928 volumes were obtained on loan from the National Library and 3,881 volumes were purchased or donated. The collection at the end of 1982 consisted of 34,146 volumes, a 20 per cent increase. Of these 22,346 were available for circulation and 5,058 records were added to the automated data base, bringing the total records to 11,995.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The scholarship Committee interviewed candidates and awarded a \$4,000 scholarship to Ms. Suzan Hebditch of Winterburn to assist her in her studies towards a Masters of Library Science Degree at the University of Alberta. No research fellowship was awarded.

LEGISLATION

The Board's ad hoc committee on legislation which consisted of Chairman Ron Hodges, LAA representative Heather Belle-Dowling; ALTA representative Howard Platt and Joe Forsyth from Library Services Branch, presented their report to the Board at its April, 1982 meeting. The report was accepted and forwarded to the Minister for her consideration and legal counsel guidance. It is expected that a new Libraries Act will be tabled in the 1983 Fall sitting of the legislature.

LIAISON WITH OTHER GROUPS

The Board held its regular monthly meetings and, in addition, the chairs and vice-chairs of the Library Association of Alberta, the Alberta Library Trustees Association and the Alberta Library Board met informally on a regular basis for the purpose of discussing areas of mutual interest and concern. This has been very useful in keeping lines of communication open among vested interest groups in regard to library development. The Board also met with all the units of the Library Services Branch in order to become familiar with their work. Many board members attended the Library Association of Alberta province-wide meeting on library governance. Finally, the Board had representation at several steering committee meetings and at an Alberta Library Trustees Association area workshop in Seba Beach.



Left to right: Ron Hodges, Joe Forsyth, Heather Belle-Dowling, Howard Platt



Bill Schieman with Canadian Library Association President Pearce J. Penney at Public Library Association Conference in Baltimore.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

In May, 1982, the Board contributed financially to the televising of the Alberta Library Trustees Association's 30-second clip "*Behind Closed Doors*." This promotion for libraries is currently being broadcast across the province in community service time slots.

In May, the Board voted support for a three-year professionally developed campaign funded by the Alberta Library Trustees Association, Library Association of Alberta, Alberta Library Board and Alberta Culture Library Services. Elaine Blakey headed a committee of representatives of these organizations and plans to develop these proposals are now underway.

LIBRARIES 2000 SEMINAR

Sponsored by the Alberta Library Board, LIBRARIES 2000 will be an invitational seminar planned to explore the future development of libraries in Alberta in relation to their past growth, their present state and their social purpose. The intention of the seminar, scheduled for October of 1983, is to begin a process of discussion which will be continued by various groups within the province. The organizing committee was headed by Dr. Merron Chorny and included John Dutton, Lorne MacRae, Joe Forsyth, and Howard Platt.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

In 1982, the Minister of Education, Honourable David King, struck a departmental committee to prepare a report on school libraries in Alberta. The resulting document was "*A Position Paper on School Libraries in Alberta*." The Board is looking forward to reviewing this paper and providing further input because it feels that this is an important step in promoting co-operation between school and public libraries.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Representatives of the Board attended the following conferences:

The Canadian Library Association Conference (Saskatoon)

The American Library Association Conference (Philadelphia)

The Pacific Northwest Library Association Conference (Vancouver)

The International Association of School Libraries Conference (Red Deer)

The Public Library Association Conference (Baltimore)

The Library Association of Alberta/Alberta Library Trustees Association Conference (Jasper)

The Public Library and new Librarians Workshop (Edmonton)

The Alberta Library Trustees Workshop (Seba Beach)

Library Development in Alberta (Edmonton)

Other gatherings included the attendance at or sending greetings to the following libraries on the occasion of their official opening:

Bruderheim	Stony Plain
Fort McMurray	Redcliff
Carstairs	Peace River
Strathmore	Wetaskiwin
Marigold Headquarters	High River
Edmonton Public Library	(Millwoods)



Bill Schieman with M.I.A.
Mickey Clark at Strathmore
Opening

IN CONCLUSION

The Alberta Library Board, established five years ago, is an Advisory Board to the Minister of Culture whose support and encouragement is greatly appreciated. The Board gratefully acknowledges the assistance and confidence it has received from the Minister, the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Glen Buick, together with the efficient co-operation of Mr. Joe Forsyth, Director of Library Services and his staff, which have provided invaluable help through their resources. I wish to commend my fellow board members for their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work for the course of library development in Alberta.

Suggested System Areas



POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL